



Tennessee Regulatory Authority

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TRA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS FOR (901) AREA CODE DISCUSSIONS

Agency stresses the importance of consumer feedback on proposed solutions; also establishes statewide, toll-free telephone number for public comment.

NASHVILLE -- The Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) will be hosting a series of public meetings during the month of June to discuss the (901) area code exhaust.

The meetings are open to the public and are designed to provide a more in-depth discussion of the reasons behind the (901) area code problem, and to give consumers an open forum to express their questions and concerns.

“Because of the impact an area code change can have on communities, we want to give residents within the (901) calling areas an opportunity to learn about what’s going on and to give them a venue in which their questions and concerns can be addressed,” says TRA Chief of Consumer Services, Eddie Roberson.

There are four public meetings scheduled for the (901) region. The dates and locations are as follows. (All meeting times are from 6:30-7:30 PM.):

June 5, 2000

Senior Services Building

4700 Poplar Street
Memphis, TN
(4th floor Conference Room)

Bolivar Courthouse

100 Main Street
Bolivar, TN
(Main Courtroom)

June 6, 2000

Holiday Inn
541 Carriage House Drive
Jackson, TN

Dyersburg Municipal Building
425 W. Market
Dyersburg, TN

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According to the North American Number Plan Administration (NANPA), the (901) area code will exhaust sometime during the first quarter of the year 2002. Area code exhaustion occurs when nearly all of an area's NXX codes (telephone number prefixes) have been assigned to telecommunications service providers.

Possible solutions for addressing the region's area code problem include implementing a **"geographic split"** or an area **"overlay."**

A **geographic split** involves assigning a new area code to one portion of the households in the exhausted area, while leaving the remaining area with the existing area code. Under this option, 7-digit local dialing would remain *within* the respective area codes; but 10-digit dialing would be necessary for calling *between* the old and new area codes.

An area **overlay** involves superimposing a new area code over the existing (901) code. Under this option, 10-digit local dialing would be required for *all* local calls made throughout the area covered by the new code. Every household under an overlay plan would be required to dial 10-digits when making local calls.

In addition to the public meetings, consumers wishing to phone-in their comments on the proposed area code relief options may do so by calling 1-(877)-691-2969. The call is free and is available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

"This is an important issue and it's vital that we hear from consumers," concludes Roberson.

To obtain a copy of this press release or to learn more about area code exhaustion, visit the TRA's web site at www.state.tn.us/tra. Our offices are located at 460 James Roberson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee 37243.

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